



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

February 10, 2004

Federal Election Commission
999 "E" Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463

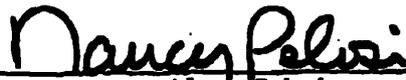
Dear Commissioners:

We are aware that the Commission may soon address questions regarding get-out-the-vote, voter registration, and other activities conducted by political organizations (other than political parties) and public-advocacy groups. We note from the public discussion that various claims have been made that the McCain-Feingold legislation (BCRA) is the basis for these initiatives. One Commissioner, in a recent letter to Roll Call, stated:

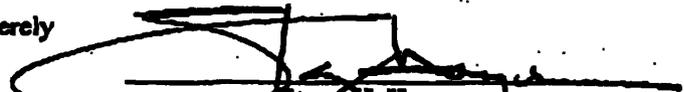
"At the very least, serious questions exist whether outside groups are circumventing the McCain-Feingold law, and these questions must be addressed. In the weeks ahead, it will be critical that the sponsors of the McCain-Feingold law indicate whether they believe outside tax-exempt groups can legally spend unlimited soft money on election-related activities in the place of the national political parties under the new law." (Roll Call, January 27, 2004 at page 4.)

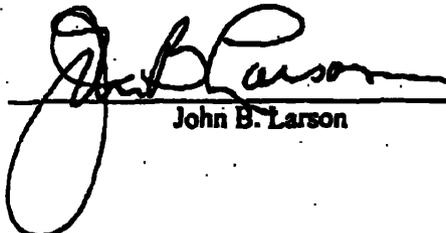
We are writing to say for the record that, when we voted for BCRA, we voted to get federal elected officials and political parties out of the business of raising and spending soft money – monies that presented the clearest danger of creating the fact or appearance of corruption in our government. The law did not aim similar restrictions at other political organizations or public-advocacy groups, so long as they are neither controlled by, nor coordinate their activities with political parties, candidates, office holders or their agents. In fact, it was our hope that BCRA would reinvigorate grassroots organizations to participate in the political process.

Whatever direction the Commission takes, BCRA reflects, in very clear and specific terms, the choices enacted by Congress to reform our federal campaign finance laws. While we do not express an opinion about actions the Commission may or may not take, we expect the Commission, as an independent agency, to exercise its authority consistent with the law and the Constitutional rights of the citizenry to fully participate in the political process by way of political organizations. And while the Commission may choose to impose new restrictions on the programs and activities of these groups, such restrictions should be applied fairly and consistently, and the agency should not proceed on the basis of some misperceived mandates from the Congress, which some have read into the McCain-Feingold legislation.


Nancy Pelosi

Sincerely


Steny Hoyer


John B. Larson


Janice D. Schakowsky

Letter to FEC Commissioners
February 10, 2004

Bill Pasarell J

Paul E Kayser

Neil J

William J. Swatt

Steve J. Hill MA9

James R. Kasper

~~Just killed the ...~~

Elijah E. Timmings

John W. Olver

Neil Abernethy

Carlye M. Conly

Alvin Dooly

Paul A. Brady

Robert J.

Frank Kelly

Thompson

James W. Boring

Mark Stephens

J. J.

James Dooly

Letter to FEC Commissioners
February 10, 2004

~~Bill Hurd~~
Mark Wood

Joe Han

Paul Sampson

Robert Watson

Ben Cardin

Chad Fells

Pat Lewis

Tom Miller

~~Tom Miller~~

~~Gregg Williams~~

Jim Moran

~~Jim Moran~~

Shelley Berkley

~~Shelley Berkley~~

Mitch Row

Bob Miller

Pete Stark

Steve [Signature]

Corrine Brown

Letter to FEC Commissioners
February 10, 2004

Jim Mc Down

Carolyn C. Kelpke

Edna Bernice Johnson

Chris Bell

Barker Lee

Juanita Hillman-Tomel

Shirley Ann Parks
Shirley Ann Parks

Tom Allen

Lynn C. Culley

Carol B. Haly

John F. Terry

